

If you are a renter who has fallen behind on rent or utility payments during the COVID-19 pandemic, you may be eligible for rental or utility assistance.

Who is eligible? If you or someone in your household has received unemployment insurance or experienced financial hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic, are at risk of eviction or housing instability, and have an income at or below 80% of the [Area Median Income](#), you may qualify for rental or utility assistance.

How do I apply and check if I am eligible? To apply to the Georgia Rental Assistance program and check your eligibility, you can go to georgiarentalassistance.ga.gov. You will need to complete a COVID hardship form and provide your identification, income verification information, a past-due rent or utility notice, and a copy of your lease.

Rental assistance can be used to pay past-due rent and utilities like electricity and water. Depending on the program, assistance can also be used for legal assistance and costs associated with moving like a security deposit.

How does the rental assistance program work in Georgia? The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) administers the State of Georgia Rental Assistance Program. Counties or cities with over 200,000 people have additional funding to administer their own rental assistance programs as well. The 12 counties or cities that run their own rental assistance programs are:

- Augusta-Richmond County
- Clayton County
- Gwinnett County
- Chatham County
- Cobb County
- Hall County
- Cherokee County
- DeKalb County
- Henry County
- The City of Atlanta
- Forsyth County

If you live in the 12 counties/cities that have their own programs, you can go to georgiarentalassistance.ga.gov/faq, which includes a link to those programs. You can also apply directly through the Georgia Rental Assistance Program at georgiarentalassistance.ga.gov as DCA is providing rental and utility assistance statewide.

What are some common misconceptions about the program?:

	Misconception	Fact
1	I cannot receive rental assistance if I have already been evicted.	You can receive rental assistance after you have been evicted. Rental assistance can be used for a security deposit or to help pay future rent.
2	Rental assistance is like a stimulus check and will automatically be deposited in my account or mailed.	You need to apply for rental assistance and applications need to be processed. This means you will need to allow adequate time for processing your application.
3	I need to wait for my landlord to reach out to me before applying for rental assistance.	You do not need to wait for your landlord to start the application process; you can apply directly for assistance.
4	I was denied for rental assistance before, so I cannot reapply.	You can appeal your denial if you believe you were denied in error or reapply if you believe your current situation makes you eligible for the program.

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